

New Albany Steamboats

S349

1807-1929

1folder

Manuscripts & Rare Books Division
Indiana State Library

Finding Aid by: Nikki Stoddard Schofield, January 2014

Organizational History:

The industry of building steamboats in New Albany, Indiana, began with the invention of the steam boat by Robert Fulton in 1807. The first steamboat went down the Ohio River in 1811. New Albany was founded in 1813 by the Scribner brothers. In 1818, two steamboats were built there along Silver Creek. From 1830 to 1856, the steamboat building industry grew steadily. In 1853, New Albany was the largest town in Indiana, but began to decline. Most of the townspeople depended on the boat building trade. During the period from 1818 to 1867, when the last boat was built, there were more than 350 boats constructed in New Albany.

Source:

Information Found within Collection

Scope and Content:

There are four documents in this collection – three typed and one printed. Some of the typed pages have corrections and marginal notes regarding the history of boat building in New Albany. The two printed pages are from an unknown source and have the headings: “Boat Building” and “New Albany Today.”

The 26-page article tells about the Howard firm at Jeffersonville that “built more than half the steamboats operating on the Western Waters.” Some of the boats described were the Eclipse built in 1852; the J. M. White, which was destroyed when “fire reached gunpowder carried in her hold”; the Fanny Bullitt, which earned fourteen times her cost by the close of her career; and the Gordon C. Greene, which became a museum and restaurant in Venice, Florida.

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**Collection Inventory
Item Listing:**

Folder 1. *Title of Folder* (Information listed on Center of the Folder)

Date	
n.d.	Sesquicentennial Plaque "Packet to Power" (2 typed pages)
n.d.	New Albany & steamboats were born about the same time (15 typed pages)
n.d.	"Boat Building" & "New Albany Today" (2 printed pages)
n.d.	The Natchez captained by Tom Leathers (26 typed pages)

Collection Information:

Size of Collection:	1folder
Collection Dates:	1807-1929
Provenance:	Deanthe McGraw
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